

**Abstract**

The present invention provides a positive resist composition comprising

(A) a resin which itself is insoluble or poorly soluble in an alkali aqueous

5 solution but becomes soluble in an alkali aqueous solution by the action of an

acid, wherein the content of halogen atoms in the resin is 40% by weight or more,

at least one of structural units constituting the resin is a structural unit having an

alicyclic hydrocarbon skeleton, and the structural unit having an alicyclic

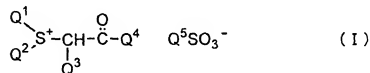
hydrocarbon skeleton contains therein at least one group rendering the resin

10 soluble in an alkali aqueous solution by the action of an acid, and at least one

halogen atom, and a carbon in the alicyclic hydrocarbon skeleton may be

substituted by an oxygen, and

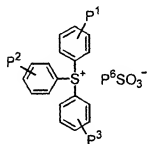
(B) (a) an acid generator comprising a sulfonium salt of the formula (I)



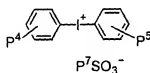
15 wherein Q<sup>1</sup>, Q<sup>2</sup>, Q<sup>3</sup> and Q<sup>4</sup> are defined in the specification, and

(b) a triphenylsulfonium salt of the formula (IIa) and/or a diphenyliodonium salt

of the formula (IIb)



(IIa)



(IIb)

wherein P<sup>1</sup>, P<sup>2</sup>, P<sup>3</sup>, P<sup>4</sup>, P<sup>5</sup>, P<sup>6</sup>SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and P<sup>7</sup>SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> are defined in the specification.